

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application.

**Objection of Claims 1, 5, 8, 10-15 and 17-22**

The Office Action alleges that claim 1, lines 9-10 should be changed from “said given video tape” to “said given storage media”

The Office Action alleges that claims 5 and 8, line 3 should be changed from “electronic signal detection” to “electronic information signal detection”.

The Office Action alleges that claims 10-15 and 17-22, lines 1-2 should be changed from “for storage media” to “for a video cassette player”

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9 and 16 are amended herein to correct any informalities. The Applicant respectfully requests the objection of claims 1, 5, 8, 10-15 and 17-22 be withdrawn.

**Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22 over Takayama**

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,066 to Takayama (“Takayama”). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 recite a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to read a pre-existing electronic information signal **stored on a given storage media**. Claims 9-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22 recite a system and method of detecting a pre-existing video signal **from a given video tape**.

Takayama appears to disclose a recording and reproducing apparatus using a cassette and a detector for detecting whether the cassette is set to a record-possible mode or a write-protect mode (Abstract). When the cassette has been set onto an apparatus, a controller determines whether a detection switch is on or off to check a presence of a write-protect mode (see col. 7, lines 49-57). If a notch on a cassette is disabled, a system log data is read out and stored in a memory inside the controller (see col. 7, lines 57-60). The write-

protect status is used to properly coordinate a head-cleaning operation (see col. 1, lines 8-19).

Thus, Takayama disclose a system and method of detecting whether a NOTCH on a cassette housing is in place to coordinate a head-cleaning operation. Takayama fails to disclose or suggest detecting a pre-existing electronic signal stored on a given storage media, i.e., a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to read a pre-existing electronic information signal stored on a given storage media and a system and method of detecting a pre-existing video signal from a given video tape, as recited by claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22.

Moreover, claims 1-3 and 5-8 recite a record circuit, adapted to record on a given storage media, to activate and deactivate at least one record/play element based on a mere existence of a pre-recorded signal already recorded on a given storage media, as detected by a pre-existing information signal detection element. Claims 9-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22 recite a system and method of deactivating a record circuit in a video cassette player based on a mere existence of a pre-existing video signal already recorded on a given video tape.

As discussed above, Takayama disclose a system and method of detecting whether a NOTCH on a housing is in place to coordinate a head-cleaning operation. Takayama fails to disclose or suggest deactivation of a record circuit based on information recorded on a storage medium, i.e., deactivate at least one record/play element based on a mere existence of a pre-recorded signal already recorded on a given storage media and deactivating a record circuit in a video cassette player based on a mere existence of a pre-existing video signal already recorded on a given video tape, as recited by claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22..

For these and other reasons, claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 16-18 and 20-22 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Claims 4, 12 and 19 over Takayama in view of Yuen**

Claims 4, 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Takayama in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,487,362 to Yuen ("Yuen"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 4 recites a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to read a pre-existing electronic information signal **stored on a given storage media**. Claims 12 and 19 recite a system and method of detecting a pre-existing video signal **from a given video tape**.

As discussed above, Takayama fails to disclose or suggest a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to read a pre-existing electronic information signal **stored on a given storage media** and a system and method of detecting a pre-existing video signal **from a given video tape**, as recited by claims 4, 12 and 19.

Yuen is relied on to disclose a stationary record/play element at col. 91, lines 47-55. However, even modifying Takayama with Tuen's stationary record/play element fails to disclose or suggest a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to read a pre-existing electronic information signal **stored on a given storage media** and a system and method of detecting a pre-existing video signal **from a given video tape**, as recited by claims 4, 12 and 19.

For these and other reasons, claims 4, 12 and 19 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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